



Minarets High School
Student Course Outline and Expectations
Agriculture Earth Science



Instructor Contact Information:

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I. Course Description

Agricultural Earth Science is a course that explores the Earth's composition, structure, processes, and history; its atmosphere, fresh water, and oceans; and its environment. Using agriculture as a learning vehicle, the course emphasizes the principles and practices of Earth Science as a way to demonstrate the relevance of agriculture to each student's life and environment. Laboratory experiments introduce students to different lab techniques while building their skills in critical thinking, inquiry, and observation. Topics include an exploration of the major cycles that affect every aspect of life including weather, climate, and air movement, tectonics, volcanic eruptions, rocks, minerals, geologic history, the Earth's environment, sustainability, and energy resources.

II. Goals and Objectives

- Students will understand that astronomy and planetary exploration reveal the solar system's structure, scale, and change over time.
- Students will understand that Earth-based and space-based astronomy reveal the structure, scale, and changes in stars, galaxies, and the universe over time.
- Students will understand that plate tectonics operating over geological time has changed the patterns of land, sea, and mountains on the Earth's surface.
- Students will understand that energy enters the Earth system primarily as solar radiation and eventually escapes as heat.
- Students will understand that the heating of the Earth's surface and atmosphere by the sun drives convection within the atmosphere and oceans, producing winds and ocean currents.
- Students will understand that climate is a long-term average of the region's weather and depends on many factors.
- Students will understand that each element on Earth moves among reservoirs which exist in the solid earth, in oceans, in the atmosphere, and within and among organisms as part of biogeochemical cycles.
- Students will understand that life changes the Earth's atmosphere, and changes in the atmosphere affect conditions for life.
- Students will understand that the geology of California underlies the state's wealth of natural resources as well as its natural hazards.
- Students will understand that scientific progress is made by asking meaningful questions and conducting careful investigations.

III. Grading Scale

The following scale is used in this class:

A= 90% and above

B= 80% - 89%

C= 70% - 79%

D= 60% - 69%
F= 59% and below

Grades are **NOT** on a weighted point scale. All grades are determined on the basis of total points earned for the grading period. Grades will start fresh each semester.

IV. Cheating

Any student(s) caught cheating on a test or quiz, or copying any portions of assignments or lab reports will receive a **ZERO** for that activity. They will **NOT** be able to make it up for partial credit. Please do not cheat; it will never get you anywhere in life.

V. Make-Up Work

It is the **student's responsibility** to ask for any work or assignment that was missed. A reasonable time period will be permitted for make-up work for the following reasons when verified within one day of the student's return:

Illness

Quarantine

Athletic activities

Medical/Dental Appointment (name of doctor/clinic)

Funeral for family members

School functions/field trips

*Athletic and school functions will only be accepted if the student is eligible to participate in them.

**Of course situations arise - just make sure to check in with the teacher to make sure that everyone is on the same page.

VI. FFA Activity

Being enrolled in any Agriculture course automatically enrolls all students as members of the Minarets FFA program. Every student will be expected to participate in at least three (3) FFA activities each semester, i.e., FFA meetings, community service activities, leadership conferences, public speaking events and judging contest. We encourage all students to become active members in the FFA program because no organization will offer the amount of opportunity in leadership and career preparation and growth than the FFA does.

VII. SAE Projects

By the end of the year every student will have a SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) project. This is a student created project tailored around individual interests, needs, and wants. It serves as another learning opportunity by increasing a student's level of responsibility, record keeping skills, while increasing his/her knowledge and skill in a chosen area. Students will have until January to design a SAE and are expected to have it up and running for most of the second semester. Parents, this can also be a great opportunity for your student to make some money while increasing their knowledge and skills.

X. Community Service

Every student is expected to participate in at least one community service project each semester. This is not limited to only activities through the FFA; students may perform community service with their church, youth groups, families, or organizations of his/her choice. But, by taking part in a FFA sponsored community service activity the student will be allowed to count it twice; once as a community service project and also as a FFA activity. Regardless, there will plenty of opportunities presented to students during the 2010-2011 school year. We encourage every student to take part in as many

community service projects as possible. Doing so will not only provide help for those in need in the short term, but it will allow growth as individuals in the long term.

IX. Extra Credit

Much like a license, extra credit is a privilege and not a right. Throughout the course of the year students will have many opportunities to obtain extra credit points to aide their final grades for the course. This should not be looked at as a band-aid or used as a crutch. Negotiation will not be apart of extra credit. Extra credit projects will be more detailed and involved than most would expect in order that they serve the purpose of increasing student understanding of content knowledge.

X. Points

Points are earned on the basis of assessments (quizzes/tests), written lab reports, presentations (both the visual and oral components will be scored), other assignments (handouts, worksheets, notes, etc.), and activity participation.

ALL assignments will be submitted, however the highest score possible for **LATE WORK** will be **70%** of the originally assigned total.

Breakdown:

50%--Projects and assignments

30%--Tests and quizzes

5%--FFA Activity

5%--SAE Project

5%--Community Service

5%--Participation and Citizenship

XI. Course Outline

Here are the topics that will be covered throughout the course of the year:

1. Classroom Orientation/Course Expectations! !
2. Introduction to Earth Science!! ! !
3. Plate Tectonics! ! ! !
4. Deformation of the Earth's Crust! ! !
5. Earthquakes!! ! ! !
6. Volcanoes! ! ! ! !
7. Rocks! ! ! ! !
8. Natural Resources and Energy
10. Natural Disasters
11. Water Supply
12. Biogeochemical Cycles
13. Atmosphere
14. Ocean Properties and Movement
15. Astronomy: Stars, Sun, and the Solar System
16. FFA and Agriculture

PLEASE SIGN AND HAVE YOUR PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGN THIS FORM AND RETURN IT!

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Signature of Student!

Date